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The Royal Parent, and Guardian of His Country.

HIS

MAJESTY's

MOST

GRACIOUS MESSAGE

Under his Royal Sign Manual, to

The Rt. Honble. the HOUSE OF LORDS,

Recommending her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Dowager of Wales Guardian, and Regent during the Prince of Wales's Minory, which was delivered by his Majeſty's Command, by his Grace the Duke of *New-caſtle*, on *Friday* the Twenty-ſixth Day of *April*, 1751, and receiv'd by the Rt. Honourable the Lord Chancellor.

GEORGE R.

HIS Majeſty having it entirely at Heart, to ſecure the future Welfare and Happineſs of His People, has maturely conſidered, That nothing can conduce ſo much (under the Protection of the Divine Providence) to the Preſervation of the Proteſtant Succeſſion in His Royal Family, and the Support of the Religion, Laws, and Liberties of theſe Kingdoms (which have been always moſt Dear to Him) as the making proper Proviſions for the Care and Tuition of the Perſon of His Succeſſor, and for the regular Adminiſtration of the Government, in Caſe ſuch Succeſſor ſhould be of tender Years; by means whereof, Their Safety, and Princely Education, may be ſecured; the Publick Peace, and good Order, maintain'd; and the Strength and Glory of the Crown of *Great Britain* ſuffer no Diminution: For theſe Reaſons, His Majeſty, out of His paternal Affection and Tenderneſs for His Royal Family, and for all His faithful Subjects, earneſtly recommends it to both Houſes of Parliament, to take this weighty Affair into their moſt ſerious Deliberation; and propoſes to their Conſideration, That, when the Imperial Crown of theſe Realms ſhall deſcend to any of the Iſſue of His Son, the late Prince of *Wales*, being under the Age of Eighteen Years, the Princeſs Dowager of *Wales*, Their Mother, ſhould be Guardian of the Perſon of ſuch Succeſſor, and Regent of theſe Kingdoms, until They ſhall attain ſuch Age; with ſuch Powers and Limitations, as ſhall appear neceſſary and expedient for theſe important Purpoſes.

THE joint Addreſs of the Houſe of Lords and Commons was preſented to his Majeſty, attended with the following Ceremonies: His Majeſty being ſeated in his Chair of State under the Canopy, in the Great Ball-Room, with his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales ſtanding on his Right Hand, and the Duke of *Cumberland* on his Left, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, attended by ſeveral Members of both Houſes, preſented it to his Majeſty, each of them having hold of it. The Lord Chancellor read it, and when he named the Houſe of Lords, made a low Obeiſance, as did the Speaker, when the Houſe of Commons was named.

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His MAJESTY's moſt Gracious ANSWER.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Return you My hearty Thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate Addreſs. The Zeal you expreſs for Me, and My Family, and the Senſe you ſhew of My Care and Concern for the Intereſt of My People, is very agreeable to Me.

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The Humble Addreſs of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament aſſembled. The Twenty-ſixth Day of *April*, 1751.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament aſſembled, approach Your Royal Throne, with Hearts fill'd, at the ſame Time, with the deepeſt Senſe of Gratitude to Your Majeſty, and with the moſt ſerious and anxious Concern for the future Welfare of our Country.

To return Your Majeſty our Thanks for Your moſt Gracious Meſſage, falls infinitely ſhort of thoſe Sentiments, with which the Subject of it inſpires us. It excites in us the moſt ſenſible Feeling of all thoſe Bleſſings, which we have enjoyed, during Your Auſpicious and Glorious Reign; of the Mildneſs and Benignity of Your Government; and of that conſtant Protection, which Your Majeſty has always extended to our Religion, Laws, and Liberties; which You have demonſtrated by Your Conduct, as well as declared by Your Royal Words, to be moſt Dear to You. Happy would it be for all Your faithful Subjects, if Heaven, in Mercy to theſe Kingdoms, would graciouſly permit a Reign, ſo diſtinguiſhed with every Mark of Goodneſs, that can endear a *Britiſh* Monarch to His People, to be prolonged beyond the ordinary Date. To look forward to its Period, anticipates a Grief, which no Words can expreſs. Your Majeſty's Greatneſs of Mind, ſhewn in Your Meſſage, has called upon us, and ſet us the Example, to enter into ſuch Conſiderations, as the high Importance of the Occaſion requires.

NOT content with being the great Inſtrument of our Happineſs, during Your own Time, Your Majeſty has pointed out to us a generous, Concern to provide for the Continuance of that Happineſs (as far as human Foreſight can do) after God ſhall have deprived us of the ineſtimable Bleſſing of Your immediate Care. In Return for this Paternal Goodneſs, permit us to aſſure Your Majeſty, That we will loſe no Time, in taking into our Conſideration the weighty Affair laid before us in Your Meſſage.

We are truly ſenſible of the high and eminent Qualities of Her Royal Highneſs, the Princeſs Dowager of *Wales*; and we look upon what Your Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to propoſe to our Conſideration, as the Reſult of Your Wiſdom, and tender Concern for Your Royal Family, and the Intereſts of Theſe Kingdoms; and we ſhall have the moſt dutiful Regard to what Your Majeſty has been pleaſed ſo wiſely to recommend.

In our Deliberations on this important Subject, we ſhall think it our Duty, as well as our eſſential Intereſt, to have the ſtricteſt and moſt zealous Attention to the Preſervation of the Proteſtant Succeſſion, as ſettled by Law, in Your Royal Family; the numerous hopeful Branches whereof, formed by Your Inſtruction, and led by Your Example, we look upon as ſo many Pledges of the Security of our Religious and Civil Rights to future Generations.

MAY it pleaſe the Divine Providence to grant Your Majeſty ſuch confirmed Health, and Length of Days as may render thoſe Proviſions, which Your Wiſdom has ſuggeſted to us on this Occaſion, unneceſſary in the Event; that we may very long enjoy the Benefits of Your gracious Government; and Your Majeſty the dutiful and affectionate Returns of a moſt obliged, loyal, and grateful People.